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EXCLUSIVE TO SPOTLIGHT

By Christopher Todd

An Alaskan island in the Arctic Ocean is the site of three super-secret Russian concentration camps where KGB agents carry out incredible human experiments on thousands of prisoners held captive there.

And the United States government has known about this gross violation of human rights on American territory since 1973 but continues to ignore the deplorable situation.

The far-north mystery territory named Wrangel Island, larger than the state of Rhode Island, is located 160 miles west of Alaska and 80 miles off the coast of Siberia.

A SPOTLIGHT probe of this bizarre story—which was casually dismissed by the State Department as a mere "historical footnote"—uncovered these shocking allegations:

- Thousands of prisoners of war—including high-ranking German, Spanish and Italian officers thought dead since World War II—have been secretly imprisoned on Wrangel Island.

- Soviet "scientists," under the direction of the KGB, carry out inhuman medical and scientific experiments on the prisoners.

- A special training camp for foreign espionage agents is operated there by the KGB.

- The U.S. Navy landed on the uninhabited island in 1881 and officially claimed it as American territory. A Russian gunboat kidnapped a colony of American citizens homesteading there and seized the island illegally. But the U.S. government "has not relinquished its claim to Wrangel Island."

- A little-publicized environmental protocol between Kissinger and the Soviets recognized Russian ownership of the island without the approval of Congress.

- Official government maps of Wrangel Island, made for the CIA from satellite photographs and which would confirm or deny the existence of the horror camps, have been classified "secret."

- The last American on the island was hand-selected by the Soviets to go there and refuses to tell what he saw.

- In 1976 the Russians banned all travel to the island and turned it over to the control of "scientists."

"Wrangel Island is American territory," declared an angry Rep. Robert K. Dornan (R-Calif.). "Americans discovered it; the U.S. Navy claimed it almost 100 years ago; and American citizens lived there until they were kidnapped by the Russians."

"It's incredible—absolutely incredible—that the State Department would have had the brazen disregard for the Constitution to have turned this island over to the Russians. Only Congress has the legal authority to dispose of government territory, not a few State Department bureaucrats."

State Department officials attempt to dismiss charges that they gave away this American territory, and play dumb to the fact that they have known for years that concentration camps are located there.

It's a complicated little question," admitted a legal adviser in the State Department's European Affairs Office who refused to be identified by name. "I can't emphasize to you the obscurity of this problem."

It's not a sensitive policy question of any kind," he claimed, "but it is sort of an historical footnote."

But in sworn testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee investigating Soviet labor camps, the significance of Wrangel Island became apparent.

Avraham Shifrin, an internationally recognized authority on Russian prisons and a survivor of 10 years hard-labor in Siberia, exposed the carefully concealed prison island to Congress in 1973.

Shifrin testified that shortly before he was released from prison in June, 1963, he met and talked to other prisoners who had actually served time on the desolate Wrangel Island and saw the horror camps firsthand.

In broken English, which he said he learned from American officers held in So-

viet prisons, Shifrin told this incredible story:

"In 1963, once I met with a group of criminals which came to our concentration camp, No. 7, and when I asked them in which place they were, they told me we were on Island of Wrangel."

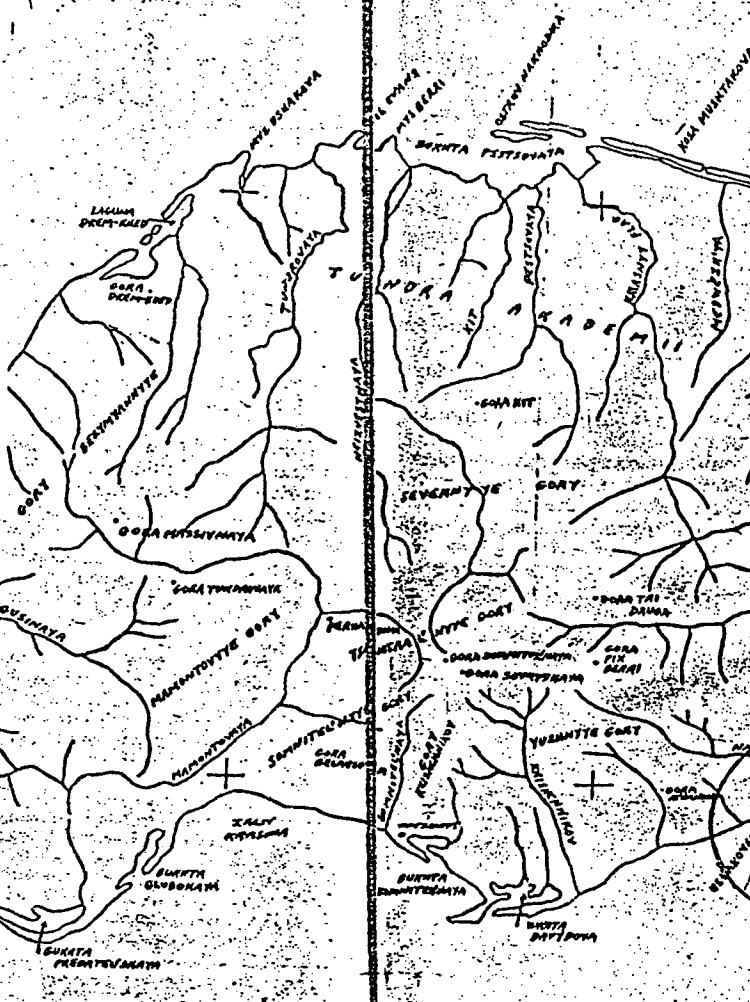
"I asked, 'Island of Wrangel? KGB has concentration camps there?' They answered me, 'Yes, there are three concentration camps for prisoners of war and there sits only big officers from Germany, Italy and Spain.'"

Shifrin did not believe the other prisoners at first because the frozen island is such a "God-forsaken place," and there was no talk about it in the prison underground communications network. He later confirmed the charge from another eyewitness, who now lives in Israel.

Explained Shifrin: "In Israel I met with one man in 1971 and he explained to me, this man, that he was also in Wrangel Island in 1962 and he has seen (sic) there three concentration camps with thousands of prisoners of war, and he explained to me that they have in one concentration camp atomic reactor and they make experiments on live prisoners with radiation."

"In another concentration camp they have experiments with physicians on the people and in a third they have submarines and they have experiments with live people under water."

"And it is big secret, and he was there in the groups of prisoners and gave the



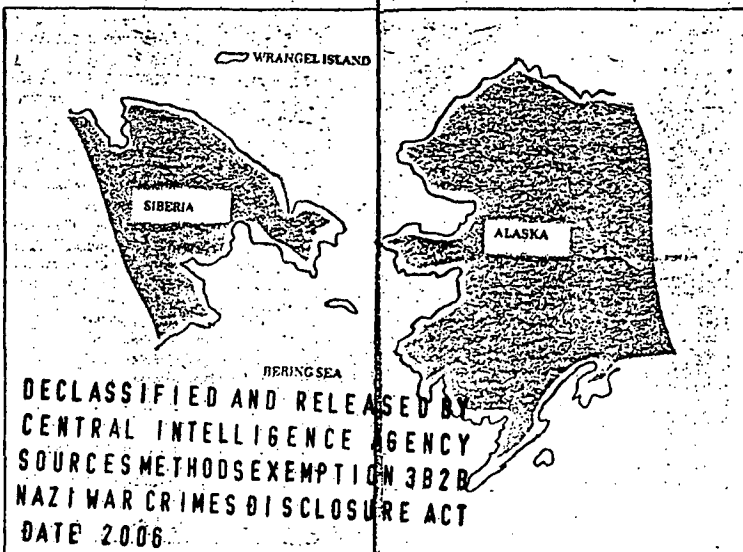
Circle shows one point on map of Wrangel Island (Rodgers Harbor) where concentration camps are operated by the Soviet

prisoners food," the former Soviet inmate said.

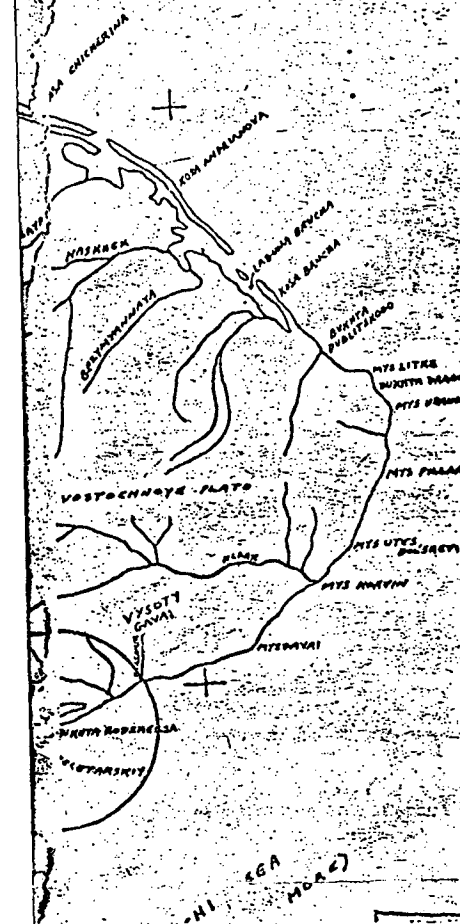
The eyewitness account of the human experimentation conducted on Wrangel Island was given to the stunned senators by an Israeli known only as "Koslov." His true identity has been carefully guarded to protect his close relatives still living in the Soviet Union. But his testi-

mony was described as "unquestionably accurate" by a committee staffer.

Koslov was in a position to have access to prison records, and was able to name some of the high-ranking POWs on Wrangel Island. An Italian committee interested in tracing missing Italian POWs believed still held in the Soviet Union has



# Soviets on U.S.-Owned Island



### Experiments are conducted on war prisoners

been able to identify some of the names Koslov found in the prison records.

"At the camp I made the acquaintance of . . . a large number of SS and Gestapo Germans, and many Italians, who had long been declared dead, but who are actually living on Wrangel," Koslov revealed.

"The camp on Wrangel Island was an experimental camp where experiments were conducted on living people," he declared.

"The experiments were in the form of injections, diets, oxygen tests on living people who were long declared dead but were alive at that time (1962) and were working very hard in the camp.

"The guards and the administrative staff were former convicts," the ex-prisoner told the senators.

"The camp also had a military guard for a special camp in which people were trained for spying abroad. That camp was headed by Ivan Ivanovich Shevilov, a veteran MVD (KGB) trooper."

Koslov also charged that a former Swedish diplomat to Hungary was held prisoner on the island.

"There was also Raoul Wallenberg, who had been Swedish consul in Budapest during the war. When the Russians entered Budapest, Raoul Wallenberg was immediately arrested at the request of the military commandant of the city of Budapest and sent by special train to Moscow. He was then 27 years old, and a hand-

some educated young man," Koslov said.

(The Senate subcommittee confirmed Koslov's description of Wallenberg's disappearance at the hands of the Soviets:

"The Swedish government addressed a whole series of inquiries to the Soviet government re the fate of Wallenberg," the report stated, "but the Soviet government always took the stand that it knew nothing about what happened to Wallenberg--this, in the face of eyewitness reports that Wallenberg was last seen being marched off under Red Army escort.")

Raoul Wallenberg is a member of one of the richest families in the world and a cousin of multi-billionaire Marcus Wallenberg.

"Unspeakable deeds are perpetrated there, beyond the Arctic Circle, and they are being perpetrated today!" exclaimed Shifrin who now lives in Zichron Ya'akov, Israel, near Haifa, and interviews former Soviet prisoners entering Israel for intelligence information.

"By the time we learn all there is to know about them, they will have passed into the realm of history, and nobody shall be unduly disturbed by these past horrors.

"There are experimentation camps in the Soviet Union this very day," Shiffrin stressed. "Witness Kh. Moshinsky has testified that on Wrangel Island, Soviet 'scientists' carry out experiments on prisoners (on) such things as endurance thresholds of the human organism, how it responds to an insufficient supply of oxygen, to motion, to weightlessness.

"But the prophets of detente-at-any-price do not wish to know of such matters," fumed Shifrin.

"The world encourages the blackmailers and bandits holding power in the USSR. Does the (as yet) free world realize that almost every industry in the Soviet Union is founded on prison labor?" he asked.

Rep. Dorman battled the bureaucratic secrecy, with some success, to get answers to the mystery cloaking Wronzel Island.

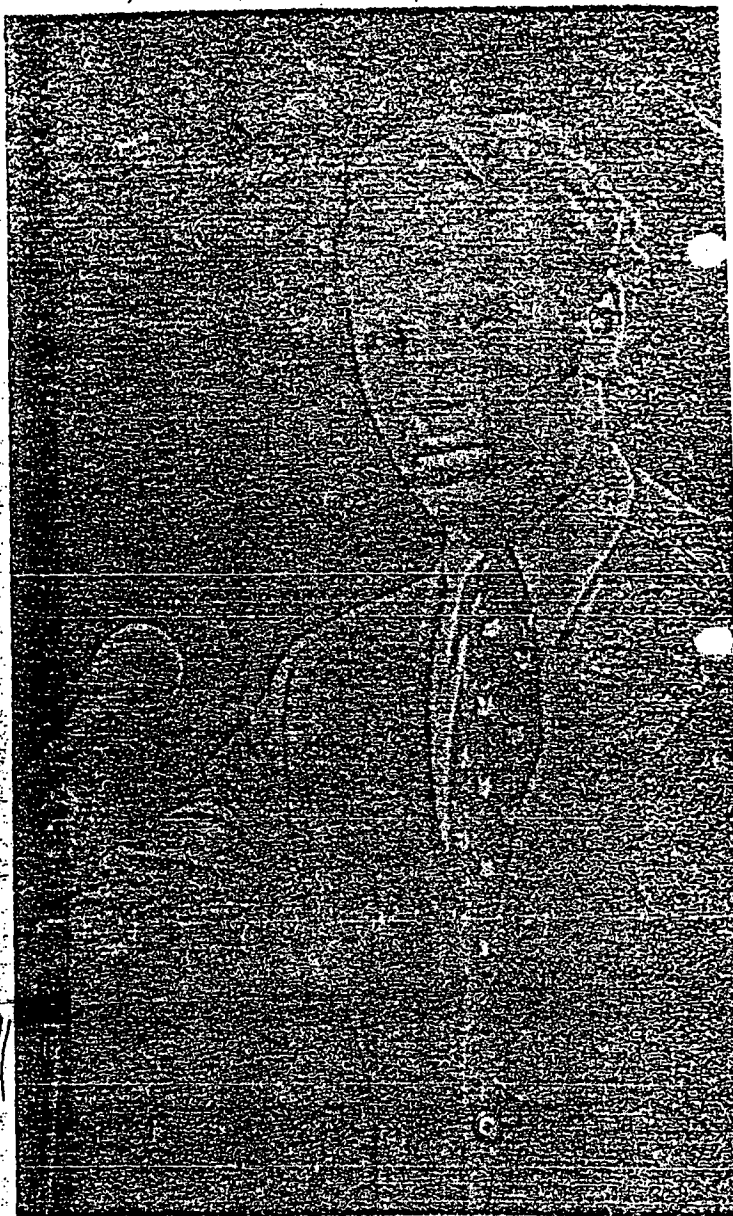
"Officials have told me privately that they are certain that the Russians probably still have the hard-labor concentration camps on Wrangel Island," Dornan told The SPOTLIGHT.

claimed, were being held for "war crimes." Allied and Japanese authorities established that Japanese nationals, both military and civilian, were taken prisoner by the USSR and that 376,000 nationals were unaccounted for. Others captured by the Soviets as POWs and never accounted for, according to the Library of Congress study, included 180,000 Rumanians, 200,000 Hungarians, 63,500 Austrians, 200 Dutch, 12,000 French and several thousand Spaniards."

The SPOTLIGHT has obtained a copy of a 1963 map of Wrangell Island which confirms the existence of three "villages" on the mountainous, fog-bound southern coast of the island. Eyewitness accounts pinpoint the locations of the hard-labor camps as being within a few miles of Rodgers Harbor. Ironically, the harbor was named for the U.S.S. John Rodgers—the American ship which landed on Wrangell Island in August, 1881.

An official wall of secrecy erected by the U.S. government has made it difficult to find out more.

The U.S. Defense Mapping Agency prepared an accurate map of Wrangel Island from satellite photos in the early 1970s for the CIA. But the map (Series 1505-NR I, 2-1), which would confirm or deny the existence and size of the camps, was classified "secret" until secrecy was cracked by Rep. Dornan. He saw the controversial map and told The SPOTLIGHT.



### Angry congressman Bob Dornan discusses Wrangel Island

"If so, this violation of human rights on American territory is an outrage beyond words. But what I find most shocking is that the State Department has known the reports of the labor camps and their presence on U.S. territory since 1973, and nothing has been done—not a peep has been heard," he thundered.

Meanwhile, the "Herald of Freedom" reports that the Soviet Union has been holding millions of prisoners in slave labor camps since World War II:

There are still thousands of military prisoners and civilians held in the slave labor camps scattered across the Soviet Union with almost half a million at Vorkuta alone. A study prepared by the Library of Congress for the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee revealed that compilations made on the basis of official Soviet statements regarding POWs from 1947 to 1950 indicate that the USSR was holding or had failed to account for approximately 1,950,000 German POWs in 1950.

Out of this figure of almost two million German POWs the Soviets subsequently admitted to holding only 3,500 who, they

"There is no reason to hide this information from the American public. I convinced authorities to declassify portions of this map.

"There is a huge airfield, as large as anything needed for jumbo jets, located on the southern coast of the island," revealed Dorman, a pilot for 27 years who is skilled at reading aviation maps. "There are also two large meteorological stations there.

"But the most intriguing thing is that there are three roads that lead nowhere. That sometimes can indicate some type of underground facility," Rep. Dorman said.

A source within the mapping agency said that classification of this particular map of the Soviet Union as "secret" in the first place was "highly unusual."

When confronted by The SPOTLIGHT with the alarming facts of Shifrin's testimony about Wrangel Island, the State Department's legal officer responded:

Next week: How the Soviet Union conquered Wrangel Island, occupied it and kept American prisoners without firing a shot.